



AN: D790120-0961

UNCLASSIFIED:\*

DECLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

FOLLOWING PRESS COMMUNIQUE WHICH WAS CARRIED IN FULL BY NEWSPAPERS ON THE 16TH MORNING:

QUOTE: A CATEGORICAL DENIAL BY THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN OF MISLEADING REPORTS BY FOREIGN MEDIA THAT GUERILLA CAMPS IMPARTING MILITARY TRAINING TO THE AFGHAN REFUGEES HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO EXIST ON PAKISTAN TERRITORY WAS PUBLISHED IN THE PAKISTANI NEWSPAPERS OF FEBRUARY 2. SOME SECTIONS OF THE WESTERN MEDIA, HOWEVER, CONTINUE TO MISREPRESENT THE PRESENCE OF THE AFGHAN REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN.

THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN WISHES TO REITERATE THAT ASYLUM TO THE AFGHAN REFUGEES, WHOSE NUMBER HAS RISEN TO ABOUT 35,000, IS GIVEN SOLELY ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS. THERE DOES NOT EXIST ANY GUERILLA BASE IN PAKISTAN NOR IS ANY MILITARY TRAINING IMPARTED TO AFGHAN REFUGEES. THEY ARE ONLY GIVEN FOOD AND SHELTER WITHIN THE LIMITED MEANS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN. THE GOVERNMENT HAS SO FAR DECLINED OFFERS OF HELP FROM VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES.

WHILE GIVING ASYLUM TO THE AFGHAN REFUGEES IT IS MADE VERY CLEAR TO THEM THAT THEY WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO INDULGE IN ANY OBJECTIONABLE ACTIVITY AS LONG AS THEY STAY ON PAKISTANI SOIL.

THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN HOPES THAT THIS CLARIFICATION WOULD SET AT REST ANY SPECULATION REGARDING THE EXISTENCE OF GUERILLA BASES OR THE IMPARTING OF MILITARY TRAINING TO THE AFGHAN  
UNCLASSIFIED  
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03

ISLAMA 03171 161219Z

REFUGEES. THE GOVERNMENT FURTHER HOPES THAT THE WESTERN MEDIA, WHILE REPORTING ON THE REFUGEE PROBLEM, WOULD KEEP OBJECTIVITY IN VIEW AND REFRAIN FROM TENDENTIOUS REPORTING, WHICH MAY UNNECESSARILY EXACERBATE THE SITUATION. UNQUOTE.  
CONSTABLE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED